



Message from the Vice-Chancellor and President

Professor Attila Brungs

Middle East – supporting students and staff

Thursday 9 November 2023

Dear colleagues

We wish again to acknowledge the significant impact the loss of life in the Middle East is having on many in our UNSW community and thank you for your compassionate behaviour to date.

We have recently seen and heard of numerous examples where the characteristic kindness and empathy of the UNSW community has come to the fore, supporting those who have been impacted by either the tragedy overseas or unacceptable vilification here in Australia.

We again ask and remind every person in the UNSW community to behave in a respectful, considerate manner towards their peers and colleagues at this sensitive time, and always.

Those living in the Middle East are experiencing the human suffering and horrors of war firsthand. Many of you in the UNSW community have family and friends who are experiencing distress and grief. We recognise that it is having a considerable impact on many of our students, staff, their families and friends.

We wrote to you earlier this week about Safer Communities and our commitment to safety at UNSW. We want to create a University environment that is as safe as possible so that everyone in our community can enjoy their experience of UNSW. We want our campuses to be places where students and staff are valued and respected, as well as feeling supported.

At UNSW we will not accept racism, hate speech or inciteful behaviour.

Antisemitism and Islamophobia and all other types of racial or religious vilification have no place at UNSW and will not be tolerated.

We each should expect all members of our wonderful community to uphold the University's behavioural values which include integrity, honesty and respect – with consequence and action taken in accordance with the University's applicable policies for breaches. The way we act, communicate and debate each day creates our society. Our role as a public institution requires us not only to contribute but to demonstrate, through our behaviour, how to progress to a more positive, tolerant and just society.

In these difficult times it is crucial that we continue to show tolerance and kindness, to support each other and be aware of those who are finding the situation especially distressing and challenging. It is our sincere hope that all members of the UNSW community continue to express their views in a thoughtful and respectful way.

Please remember that UNSW has a range of support services available for students and staff, including the [Student Support Team](#), and a confidential counselling service for staff and their families through the [Employee Assistance Program](#).

Best regards

Professor Attila Brungs
Vice-Chancellor and President

Professor Vlado Perkovic
Provost